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EXAMINER

MONK, MARK T

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/585,086	Applicant(s) OHASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner MARK MONK	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 08/17/2010 with respect to claims 1 - 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. The examiner objections to the specification have been withdrawn in view of the amendments applicant made in response on 08/17/2010.
3. The examiner claim objections to claim 7 have been withdrawn in view of the amendments applicant made in response on 08/17/2010.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soga et al U.S. Patent. No. 6,806,906 in view of Washino et al U.S. Reissued Patent No. RE38, 079.

Regarding claim 1 Soga et al discloses in Fig. 1 – 8, of applicant's An imaging apparatus (column 3, line 65 – 66 digital still camera 1) comprising: imaging means for imaging an object and outputting a video signal (column 4, line 59 - 67 and column 5, line 1 – 8 where the image of a subject is formed on the photoreceptor surface of an image sensing device 14 by the taking lens 13, an analog video signal representing the image of the subject is output to the analog video signal processing circuit 15, and whose signal output enters an analog/digital conversion circuit 16, which converts the signal to digital image data); generation means (assistance frame is displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image) for generating a plurality of types of capture assist marks (assistance frames in ROM 18) to be synthesized (signal processing circuit 17 executes image combining processing of the assistance frame with the subject image) with a video signal output from the imaging means (subject image from image sensing device 14, column 4, line 40 – 41 where the overall operation of the digital still camera 1 is controlled by a CPU 21 and column 5, line 19 – 33 where digital still camera 1 contains a ROM 18 storing image data representing an assistance frame (assistance lines) for assisting the user in composing the subject which is read out and applied to the digital signal processing circuit 17 which executes image combining processing in such a manner that the assistance frame is

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displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image obtained by imaging camera 1);

Soga et al further discloses of applicant's synthesis means (digital signal processing circuit 17 combines assistance frame displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image) for synthesizing a capture assist mark (assistance frame) generated by the generation means (a users selects an assistance frame displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 such that CPU 21 controls subject image capture and digital signal processing circuit 17 superimposing the assistance frame on the subject image on liquid crystal display device) with the video signal from the imaging means (subject image from image sensing device 14); acceptance means (user operating commands from operating buttons on a control panel 20 accepted by CPU 21) for accepting an instruction input about the capture assist mark (CPU 21 accepts signals indicating operating commands from operating buttons on a control panel 20 such that a superimposed image is displayed on liquid crystal display device 9, column 4, line 45 – 50 where operating buttons input to the CPU 21 are signals indicating operating commands from a control panel 20 including shift button 10, display button 11, power switch 8, execute button 7, mode setting dial 4, and up, down, left, right button 5 and column 6, line 60 – 67 and column 7, line 1 – 12 where of an image of the subject is displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 (step 52), display button 11 is pressed again (i.e., for the second time) ("YES" at step 53), then the intersection-of-thirds assistance frame 31 is displayed in a form superimposed

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upon the captured image on liquid crystal display device 9 (FIG. 9, step 54) and if the left or right button of the up, down, left, right button 5 is pressed, other assistance frames are displayed on liquid crystal display device 9);

Soga et al further discloses of applicant's control means (CPU 21 controls the overall operation of the digital still camera 1) for controlling the generation means (a users selects an assistance frame displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 such that CPU 21 controls subject image capture and digital signal processing circuit 17 superimposing the assistance frame on the subject image on liquid crystal display device 9) and the synthesis means (digital signal processing circuit 17 combines assistance frame displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image) based on the instruction input accepted through the acceptance means (user operating commands from operating buttons on a control panel 20 accepted by CPU 21) and controlling a capture assist mark corresponding to the instruction input (CPU 21 controls subject image capture and digital signal processing circuit 17 combining an superimposing the assistance frame selected by the user on the subject image on liquid crystal display device 9) so as to be synthesized with the video signal (combining and superimposing the assistance frame on the subject image);

Soga et al further discloses of applicant's a plurality of output terminal unit which use different formats to output video signals output from the imaging means, wherein the generation means (column 5, line 19 – 33 assistance frame is displayed on liquid

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crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image) generates the capture assist marker (column 5, line 19 – 33 assistance frames in ROM 18) in accordance with a format of the video signal to be supplied to each of the plurality of output terminal units; and wherein the synthesis means synthesizes the corresponding capture assist mark (column 5, line 19 – 33 digital signal processing circuit 17 combines assistance frame displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image) with the video signal to be supplied to each of the plurality of output terminal units;

Soga et al discloses a multi mode camera with a display showing a synthesizing image of a captured image with a user selected composition assistance frame but does not expressively disclose a plurality of output terminal unit which use different formats to output video signals output from the imaging means; a format of the video signal to be supplied to each of the plurality of output terminal units;

Washino et al teaches outputting a video signals to many output terminals. Washino et al teaches of Fig. 2B, of applicant's a plurality of output terminal unit (digital signal outputs 34, analog output signals 36, and digital video signals from fiber-optic interface 38) which use different formats (16:9 widescreen aspect ratio for HDTV systems and conventional 4:3 aspect ratio) to output video signals output from the imaging means (digital video camera outputs digital and analog output signals having different aspect ratios, column 6, line 65 – 67 and column 7, line 1 – 35 where a digital

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video camera has an output from digital signal processor 28 which provides digital signal outputs 34 configured as RGB, Y/R-Y/B-Y, YUV, YIQ, or any other format, analog signal processor 32 provides the analog output signals 36 in the format desired including the RGB, Y/R-Y/B-Y, YUV, YIQ, composite video or Y/C formats, or other formats as described above, and a fiber-optic interface 38 accepts digital video signals from the digital signal processor 28 and provides these signals through the fiber-optic cable 40. The camera will be suitable for the conventional/widescreen application where (column 5, line 10 – 11) the 16:9 widescreen application has an aspect ratio for HDTV systems and the conventional application has an 4:3 aspect ratio such that a plurality of output terminal units use different formats to output video signals output from the imaging means); a format of the video signal to be supplied to each of the plurality of output terminal units (digital and analog output signals having different aspect ratios from the output of the digital video camera);

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine a multi mode camera with a display showing a synthesizing image of a captured image with a user selected composition assistance frame as disclosed by Soga et al with outputting video signals to many output terminals as taught by Washino et al so as to have a digital camera supplying many image signal outputs that is compatible with many connected external devices.

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Regarding claim 5 of applicant's wherein the acceptance means can accept selection input of a capture assist mark generated at least from the plurality of types of capture assist marks. Claim 5 is rejected for the reasons found in claim 1 above where of the combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al, Soga et al discloses in column 4, line 40 – 41 where a CPU 21 and digital signal processing circuit 17 performs combining and superimposing an assistance frame (column 6, line 60 – 67 and column 7, line 1 – 12) selected by a user using operating buttons on a control panel 20 of the (column 5, line 19 – 33) many assistance frames stored in ROM 18 such that the subject image obtained by imaging camera 1 and the selected assistance frame are then displayed on liquid crystal display device 9.

Regarding claim 7, claim 7 is rejected for being fully encompassed by the rejection found in claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 11 of applicant's wherein the acceptance step accepts input for selecting a capture assist mark to be generated at least from a plurality of types of capture assist marks. Claim 11 is rejected for the reasons found in claim 7 above.

Regarding claim 13, claim 13 is rejected for being fully encompassed by the rejection found in claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 16 of applicant's wherein the acceptance unit is configured to accept selection input of a capture assist mark generated at least from the plurality of types of capture assist marks. Claim 16 is rejected for the reasons found in claim 5 above.

6. Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soga et al U.S. Patent. No. 6,806,906 in view of Washino et al U.S. Reissued Patent No. RE38, 079 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Huang et al U.S. Publication No. 2004/0257458.

Regarding claim 2 of the combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al, Soga et al further discloses in Fig. 1 – 2, of applicant's selection input acceptance means (mode setting dial 4) for accepting selection input of a plurality of capture modes (selected shooting mode or set-up mode among various modes, column 4, line 12 – 19 where an index mark 6 indicates a selected shooting mode or set-up mode among various modes on the left side of the mode setting dial 4, see Fig. 2) to generate differently formatted video signals; and capture mode change means (mode setting dial 4) for controlling the imaging means (operating buttons input to the CPU 21 are signals indicating operating commands from a control panel 20) in accordance with the selection input (user selects the assistance frame using display button 11) accepted through the selection input acceptance means (display button 11, column 4, line 45 – 50 where operating buttons input to the CPU 21 are signals indicating operating commands

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from a control panel 20 including display button 11, mode setting dial 4, and up, down, left, right button 5 and column 4, line 40 – 41 where a CPU 21 and digital signal processing circuit 17 performs combining and superimposing an assistance frame (column 6, line 60 – 67 and column 7, line 1 – 12) selected by a user using operating buttons on a control panel 20 of the (column 5, line 19 – 33) many assistance frames stored in ROM 18) and enabling a selected capture mode,

Soga et al further discloses of applicant's wherein the control means (column 4, line 40 – 41 where CPU 21 controls the overall operation of the digital still camera 1) controls the generation means (a users selects an assistance frame displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 such that CPU 21 controls subject image capture and digital signal processing circuit 17 superimposing the assistance frame on the subject image on liquid crystal display device 9) so as to generate the capture assist mark (assistance frame) in accordance with a selected capture mode;

The combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al teaches a multi mode camera with a display showing a synthesizing image of a captured image with a user selected composition assistance frame and then outputting the video signals to many output terminals but does not expressively teach that the capture modes can generate differently formatted video signals; enabling a selected capture mode, wherein the control means controls the generation means so as to generate the capture assist mark in accordance with a selected capture mode (differently formatted video signals);

Huang et al teaches a method of controlling capturing an image to a user selected aspect ratio of the many aspect ratios. Huang et al teaches of Fig. 1 – 3, of applicant's capture modes (an image frame captured by the user entering a command so as to pick from a plurality of preset ratios) can generate differently formatted video signals (plurality of preset ratios, paragraph 0025 where an image frame to be captured is viewed via a viewfinder 10 or a planar liquid crystal display 11 is provided by the user who has enter a command to input interface 20 so as to pick the desired aspect ratio from a plurality of preset ratios); enabling a selected capture mode (micro-controller 21 captured the image frame aspect set by the user), wherein the control means (micro-controller 21) controls the generation means (micro-controller 21 controls the captured image frame to a user set aspect) so as to generate the capture assist mark in accordance with the selected capture mode (user input so as to pick the desired aspect ratio from a plurality of preset ratios, paragraph 0026 where a micro-controller 21 has the image frame captured by the photoelectric converting device 13 to be marked in a specific pattern in response to the aspect-ratio-related command entered by the user via the input interface 20);

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine a multi mode camera with a display showing a synthesizing image of a captured image with a user selected composition assistance frame and then outputting the video signals to many output terminals as taught by the

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combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al with a method of controlling capturing an image to a user selected aspect ratio of the many aspect ratios as taught by Huang et al so as to provide a view-finding method and device capable of adjusting the aspect ratio of a frame viewed according to the desired photo specification set by the devices user.

Regarding claim 3 the combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al further in view of Huang et al teaches in claim 2 above of applicant's selection input acceptance means (Soga et al, column 4, line 45 – 50, mode setting dial 4) for accepting selection input of a plurality of capture modes (Soga et al, column 4, line 12 - 19, selected shooting mode or set-up mode among various modes) to generate (Huang et al, paragraph 0025 the image frame captured by the user entering a command so as to pick from a plurality of preset ratios) differently formatted video signals (Huang et al, paragraph 0025 plurality of preset ratios); and capture mode change means (Soga et al, column 4, line 45 – 50, mode setting dial 4) for controlling the imaging means (Soga et al, column 4, line 45 – 50, operating buttons input to the CPU 21 are signals indicating operating commands from a control panel 20) in accordance with the selection input (Soga et al, column 6, line 60 - 67 and column 7, line 1 - 12, user selects the assistance frame using display button 11) accepted through the selection input acceptance means (Soga et al, display button 11) and enabling a selected capture mode (Huang et al, paragraph 0026 micro-controller 21 captured the image frame aspect set by the user),

Of the combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al further in view of Huang et al, Huang et al further teaches of Fig. 3(a) and 3(b), of applicant's wherein the control means (micro-controller 21) controls whether or not to synthesize a capture assist mark (micro-controller 21 marks the image frame in a specific pattern to the user selected aspect ratio unless the image frame aspect ratio of 3 by 4 is selected by the user (no darkened portion is required to be shown in LCD 11, ie., the LCD 11 aspect ratio)) generated by the generation means (micro-controller 21 controls the captured image frame to a user set aspect) in accordance with the selected capture mode (user selected aspect ratio from a plurality of predetermined aspect ratios, paragraph 0027 where a plurality of predetermined aspect ratios (4 by 3, 5 by 3, 6 by 4, etc.) are provided for selection via the input interface 20 (set by the user) such that micro-controller 21 marks the image frame in a specific pattern to the selected aspect ratio (selected by the user, example, image frame 30 displayed on LCD 11 is marked with a bright and dark portion to show a desired frame portion 301 and an undesired frame portion 302)., however if the aspect ratio of the image frame captured by the digital still camera 1 is not to be adjusted, the aspect ratio 3 by 4 is selected and no darkened portion is required).

Regarding claim 8 of applicant's accepting selection input of a plurality of capture modes to generate differently formatted video signals; and controlling the imaging means in accordance with the selection input accepted through the selection input acceptance means and enabling a selected capture mode, wherein the generation step

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controls generation of the capture assist mark in accordance with the selected capture mode. Claim 8 is rejected for the reasons found in claims 2 and 7 above.

Regarding claim 9 of applicant's accepting selection input of a plurality of capture modes to generate differently formatted video signals; and controlling the imaging means in accordance with the selection input accepted through the selection input acceptance means and enabling a selected capture mode, wherein the synthesis step controls synthesis of the capture assist mark in accordance with the selected capture mode. Claim 9 is rejected for the reasons found in claims 3 and 7 above.

Regarding claim 14 of applicant's a selection input acceptance unit for accepting selection input of a plurality of capture modes to generate differently formatted video signals; and a capture mode change unit for controlling the imaging unit in accordance with the accepted selection input and enabling a selected capture mode, wherein the control unit controls the generation unit so as to generate the capture assist mark in accordance with the selected capture mode. Claim 14 is rejected for the reasons found in claims 2 and 13 above.

Regarding claim 15 of applicant's selection input acceptance unit for accepting selection input of a plurality of capture modes to generate differently formatted video signals; and capture mode change unit for controlling the imaging unit in accordance with the selection input accepted through the selection input acceptance unit and

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enabling a selected capture mode, wherein the control unit controls whether or not to synthesize a capture assist mark in accordance with the selected capture mode. Claim 15 is rejected for the reasons found in claims 3 and 13 above.

7. Claims 6, 12, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soga et al U.S. Patent. No. 6,806,906 in view of Washino et al U.S. Reissued Patent No. RE38, 079 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ejima U.S. Patent No. 6,188,432.

Regarding claim 6 of the combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al, Soga et al further discloses of applicant's a change input acceptance means for directly accepting input for a change between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks (assistance frames in ROM 18) as a whole generated by the generation means (assistance frame is displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image, column 5, line 19 – 33 where digital still camera 1 contains a ROM 18 storing image data representing an assistance frame (assistance lines) for assisting the user in composing the subject which is read out and applied to the digital signal processing circuit 17 which executes image combining processing in such a manner that the assistance frame is displayed on liquid crystal display device 9 in a form superimposed on the subject image obtained by imaging camera 1); and change control means for changing between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks (assistance frames in ROM 18) as a whole in accordance with the

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change input accepted through the change input acceptance means;

The combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al teaches a multi mode camera with a display showing a synthesizing image of a captured image with a user selected composition assistance frame and then outputting the video signals to many output terminals but do not expressively teach a change input acceptance means for directly accepting input for a change between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole generated by the generation means; and change control means for changing between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole in accordance with the change input accepted through the change input acceptance means;

Ejima teaches the function of a user turning on an image from memory overlaying another image in a display and turning off the image from memory overlaying another image in a display. Ejima teaches of Fig. 1 – 4, of applicant's change input acceptance means (switch icon "ON/OFF") for directly accepting input (user input) for a change between displaying and hiding (ON/OFF) the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole generated by the generation means (column 4, line 64 – 67 and column 5, line 1 - 7 where a user creates a line drawing and CPU 36 stores the line drawing in memory card 24 and column 11, line 13 – 27 where a user to selects whether the line drawing in memory card 24 is displayed on the LCD 6 at all by a switch (an icon with the words "ON/OFF") displayed on the LCD 6 (see FIGS. 9A)); and change control means

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(switch icon "ON/OFF") for changing between displaying and hiding (ON/OFF) the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole in accordance with the change input (user input) accepted through the change input acceptance means (switch icon "ON/OFF" displays line drawing on the LCD 6 in the ON state and does not display the line drawing on the LCD 6 in the OFF state);

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine a multi mode camera with a display showing a synthesizing image of a captured image with a user selected composition assistance frame and then outputting the video signals to many output terminals as taught by the combination of Soga et al in view of Washino et al with the function of a user turning on an image from memory overlaying another image in a display and turning off the image from memory overlaying another image in a display as taught by Ejima so as to be able to display and not display by a user command an image stored in memory and an object image together by superimposing the stored image onto the object image.

Regarding claim 12 of applicant's accepting input for a change between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole generated at the generation step; and changing between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole in accordance with the change input accepted at the change input acceptance step. Claim 12 is rejected for the reasons found in claims 6 and 7 above.

Regarding claim 17 of applicant's a change input acceptance unit for directly accepting input for a change between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole generated by the generation unit; and a change control unit for changing between displaying and hiding the plurality of capture assist marks as a whole in accordance with the change input accepted through the change input acceptance unit. Claim 17 is rejected for the reasons found in claims 1 and 6 above.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK MONK whose telephone number is (571) 270-7454. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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